

## CHILD & YOUTH INFORMATION SHARING DECISION SUPPORT TOOL

This tool is intended for use after initial medical stabilization once a child/youth is able to safely engage in a conversation.  
**The goal of this tool is to assist clinicians in building trust and relationship with a child/youth and support care that is collaborative and reflective of a child/youth's priorities and needs.**

### Discuss the potential benefits and risks of sharing information and the limits of confidentiality with child/youth

- Ask if they would like a chosen support to be present
- Be clear about the reasons for wanting to share information
  - Describe the value of information sharing in promoting continuity of care, safety and quality, and how this may support discharge from the hospital, limit the need to repeat information with other service providers, and could help build their support network
- Be up front about limits to privacy by discussing the emergency circumstances where it is necessary to inform their chosen support(s), parent(s)/guardian(s) caregiver(s), other service provider(s), or Ministry of Children and Family Development
  - Differentiate between specific consent (sharing a particular piece of information) and general consent (sharing all personal or care information with caregiver)
  - Consent is not required to receive information from the child/youth's chosen support(s) and/or caregiver(s) or to share general information. General information is information about services, programs, or available supports, without providing new details specific to the child/youth's care
  - Personal health information can be shared with health care providers who form a patient's circle of care (e.g., specialists, lab technologists) for the purposes of ongoing care and treatment
- Ask the child/youth what the benefits and risks are for them in sharing information and explore together if there are ways to reduce any risks
- Offer choice by asking how they would like their information to be shared and with whom
- Provide option of sharing information together to support the youth in discussion with chosen support(s) or caregiver(s)

**Does the child/youth give consent to share personal information?**

NO

### Explore the decision with the child/youth

- Discuss the child/youth's reasons for wanting to keep information private
- Ask if there are specific pieces of information that can be shared and with whom
- Ask about other chosen support(s) whom they may consent to share information with

### Assess safety risk of sharing or not sharing information

Privacy laws support disclosures to protect health and safety. If there is a risk of significant harm to the individual, others, or the public, this must be shared. Disclosure in these circumstances does not require consent. It should be noted that breaking a child/youth's confidentiality may erode their trust in the healthcare system and lead them to disengage from lifesaving care in the future.

### Exercise clinical judgment to make an informed, child/youth centered decision about what information will be shared and with whom

- Inform child/youth of what information will be shared, with whom, and why
- Offer support for the child/youth to lead conversations with chosen support(s) and/or caregiver (as appropriate)
  - Liaise with chosen support(s) and/or caregiver(s)
  - Provide support to chosen support(s) and/or caregiver(s) when receiving information (e.g., help process feelings)
  - When not providing personal information to chosen support(s) and/or caregiver(s) offer general information, support, and explanation as appropriate
  - Encourage chosen support(s) and/or caregiver(s) to seek independent support
- Document decisions and information shared in the child/youth's health record

REASSESS  
DURING  
VISIT

YES

**Chosen Supports:** the term chosen supports in this tool intends to signify an approach to child and youth centered care that is inclusive of the full range of relationships important to a child/youth not just family or caregivers. Chosen supports may be family members, trusted advocates, Elders, friends, romantic partners, peers, or other caregivers.

**Service Provider:** Any individual who provides services or other supports to a child/youth. For example, physicians, social workers, mental health clinicians, teachers.